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WITCH

MIDSUMMER SPECIAL

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MIDSUMMER RECIPE

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ISSUE 6/JUNE 2020



Crows Feet Press



WITCH

Magazine

Welcome to the sixth issue of WITCH magazine. We hope you enjoy our Midsummer Special, crammed full of extra articles, pagan poetry and even more magick!

If you have something you would like to share with us, contact us at www.witchzine.co.uk or email witchzine.submissions@gmail.com

-Bekki, Editor of WITCH magazine

Featuring...

Full Moon in Sagittarius

Dream Interpretation

The art of Julie Dhemiah Meacham

Midsummer Recipes

Heat of the Hunt by Helen Bruce

Full Moon Tarot Spread

Grimoire



Pixies
HOLISTIC EMPORIUM

THE PHILOSOPHER'S MOON - FULL MOON LUNAR ECLIPSE IN SAGITTARIUS

BY MICHELLE ROSE BOXLEY

FOR SISTERS OF THE MOON

WELCOME DEAR ONES, TO OUR FULL MOON BLOG. WE ARE HEADING INTO A POWERFUL FULL MOON LUNAR ECLIPSE TOMORROW IN THE SIGN OF SAGITTARIUS AND ENTERING INTO ECLIPSE SEASON. WE MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN FEELING HOW POTENT 2020 IS ASTROLOGICALLY AND IT'S SET TO GET EVEN MORE INTENSE AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH PLANETARY RETROGRADES AND ECLIPSES. THIS COMBINATION OF ECLIPSES AND RETROGRADES COMBINED WITH ALL THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS CALLING US TO DO THE WORK! TO DO OUR OWN INNER WORK AND TO SHOW UP TO DO THE WORK NEEDED FOR THE COLLECTIVE.

This year is all about bringing injustice, untruths and structures that need to be torn down to the surface. Eclipses are often referred to as times to do shadow work and we know that this is always a theme that comes up every full moon also. Ask yourself as you head into this full moon lunar eclipse, what shadow parts of myself are making themselves known at the moment? Where do I need to do the work? Are we turning away from what's going on right now in the world or are we turning to face it and our own shortcomings?

Tomorrow, we have the sun in Gemini and the moon in Sagittarius, these two signs complement each other really well as both are to do with the mind. Sagittarius is known as the Philosopher of the zodiac and can help balance out Gemini's constant quest for knowledge and information. This full moon helps us to see the balance between intelligence and wisdom. Do we spend too much time absorbing information but then not actually integrating it into our life? For example, maybe we have been reading about certain topics for a long time, like meditation, but don't actually put them in to practice. Intelligence comes from the gathering of knowledge whereas wisdom comes from putting that knowledge into action and gaining insight and experience from it. That's where doing the work comes in!

WISDOM

noun

1. the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement; the quality of being wise.

Sometimes Gemini can be led by ego, wanting to acquire knowledge and information for their own gain. Sagittarius wants to learn, understand and gather knowledge for the greater good. We can ask ourselves if ego or love is the driving force behind our thirst for knowledge? How do we use the information we have gathered? Do we share it with others or do we keep it for ourselves? Sagittarians want to learn from others, want to travel to other lands to gain insight into how other people think and experience life - not for their own sake but to help them connect better with others. Again, we can ask ourselves, how willing are we to learn from others? To be humble and to understand that ours isn't the only point of view.

Sagittarius is a masculine fire sign, ruled by the planet Jupiter and the 9th house of Philosophy and long distance journeys. Jupiter is often referred to as the great benefactor, it is the largest of the planets and has the largest number of moons so has this beautiful expansive and abundant quality. Sagittarius moon is a wonderful time to focus on manifesting your dreams, cultivating gratitude and joy, and elevating your thoughts.

Sagittarius themes: *freedom, expansion, knowledge, abundance, joy, travel, philosophy, light, growth, limitless opportunities, adventure, curiosity, meaning, direction, focus.*

The image associated with Sagittarius is the Centaur holding a bow and arrow aimed at the sky and the constellation is the arrow. There are many messages we can take from this image, one of these is the message to look at the balance in our own life between our lower and upper chakras. Do we spend all our energy only on the lower chakras associated with this life and this life alone - our home, financial security, our sense of self and the day to day? How much time do we spend connecting with the higher chakras, looking to the stars? Asking questions about the universe and why we're here? Who are we underneath all the layers of daily life and responsibilities? Sagittarius is often referred to as the philosopher of the zodiac and they love to ask these kinds of questions. They have a childlike curiosity about everything and will always look beyond the ordinary much like Gemini. The symbol of the arrow can also remind us to check-in with our direction in life. Is the direction we are currently headed in in alignment with our true desires and our integrity?

The other archetype associated with Sagittarius is the traveller or the explorer. This doesn't necessarily mean physical travel but can also mean travelling with our mind. As we still find ourselves in lockdown, a wonderful way to tune into this energy is to read. Expand your mind with books, podcasts, blogs and conversations. Use your journal to record the things you've been learning. Start or join a book or philosophy club. Enrol in new studies. The world is your oyster!

Step outside into nature and carry that same Sagittarian curiosity with you. Marvel at all the seasonal changes taking place in your local area, look up when you'd usually be looking down, leave your phone at home or turn it onto flight mode! This fits in so well with our New Moon in Gemini theme of following our whimsy and wonder.



THIS ARTICLE WAS AN EXCERPT FROM
THE SISTERS OF THE MOON BLOG

READ THE FULL THING HERE:

[HTTPS://SISTERSOFTHEMOONONLINE.WEEBLY.COM/BLOG](https://sistersofthemoononline.weebly.com/blog)

Full moon blessings to you all dear sisters! Don't forget you can join us for our live Moon Circles via Zoom when you sign up to either our \$10 or \$20 a month Patreon tier. Full details: www.patreon.com/sistersofthemoon



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POTO

DREAM INTERPRETATION – A HOW-TO GUIDE

BY AMETHYST GARDENS

WWW.AMETHYSTGARDENS.CO.UK

ABOUT DREAMS

DREAMS PLAY A BIG PART IN OUR LIFE AND CAN AFFECT THE WAY THE REST OF OUR DAY CAN FLOW. HAVE YOU EVER WOKEN UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AFTER HAVING A NIGHTMARE, SWEATING, WORRIED AND THEN STRUGGLED TO GET YOUR FULL 8 HOURS REST? YOU GO TO WORK TIRED, STRESSED AND UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE. THIS CAN HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DREAM MEANS.

Dreams can tell us so much about ourselves; it is a time where our subconscious takes control of our brain and we process all the information of that day. It is our subconscious mind that can affect our mood. For example, after having a great night of sleep, our days tend to flow easier and we experience good days.

However, after a night of restlessness and bad dreams, we can struggle and this can indicate something bigger going on in our lives.

Our dreams are the key to opening up ourself spirituality, mentally and help master the art of meditation. The subconscious can affect all aspects of our lives; it can tell you how you truly feel about your situation, it can give you answers that may not be clear to you and messages from the higher self can be received.

Here is a how-to guide to interpret and understand your dreams.

STEP ONE- FOCUS ON YOUR DREAMS

Dreams can bring a lot of different images, interesting stories and strong symbology. Each symbol can be representative of a problem you are facing and can have a different interpretations and include messages from your higher self. It's easy to ignore your intuition but it has been gifted to us for a reason. It's as important as our five senses.

These symbols, once researched, can give you all sorts of answers and ideas to help overcome your hurdles. The best way to pay attention to your dreams is to start a dream journal and keep a note of your dreams. Even if, in the beginning, they may make no sense. Look into recurring symbol such as animals, plants, landscape, planets, etc. Don't be afraid to search the meanings and find the ones that correspond to you.

STEP TWO- FOCUS ON YOUR EMOTIONS

We all have had those nightmares and woken up on the wrong side of bed. We have all worried about life and had it re-occur in our dreams. Nightmares can actually teach us a lot about ourselves and how we feel about situations.

If we really pay attention to our dreams, it can show us the path we needed. It can show you how you truly feel about being unsure of your new options like moving careers, trusting new people and much more.

When we have pleasant dreams, we then have those pleasant days where we feel rejuvenated and feel like we have had the best day. These pleasant dreams can guide us when we feel lost or unsure in what we actually want. It can show us what our souls truly want out of life and, when paying attention, can give you some small ideas to bring those dreams to reality.

Dreams can show us what we truly want out of life. By focusing on those emotions and writing in your dream journal, you can start realising things about yourself that you didn't know.

STEP THREE- FOLLOW YOUR INTUITION

So, we have started our dream journal and have started to make sense of our true feelings. Things seem great and you seem to understand your path a bit more in life. Now what? It is time to trust your intuition! Take note if you keep having a nightmare about someone or something. Trust yourself. Trust enough to go left when normally you go right and vice versa.

Trust the new ideas that start coming to you; never mind how big or small. Look into things and see how you can get these small seeds growing into a flourishing reality. Listen to your dreams and what they are trying to say to you.

Easier said than done you say? Picasso would struggle to interpret my dreams. This is where you use your subconscious. If you feel safe around the "tiger" in your dreams but you read that this is a bad omen; trust your intuition. Keep writing in your journal and see when this image has occurred before. Symbols can mean different things to different people.



By trusting your intuition more, dreams should become more vivid, easier to interpret and give you the answers you have been seeking. By trusting your intuition and facing the truth in how you feel, you can remove toxicity from your life. You can recognise problems that arise and learn how to use your feelings and intuition to guide you to a simpler and easier path. What are your dreams telling you?


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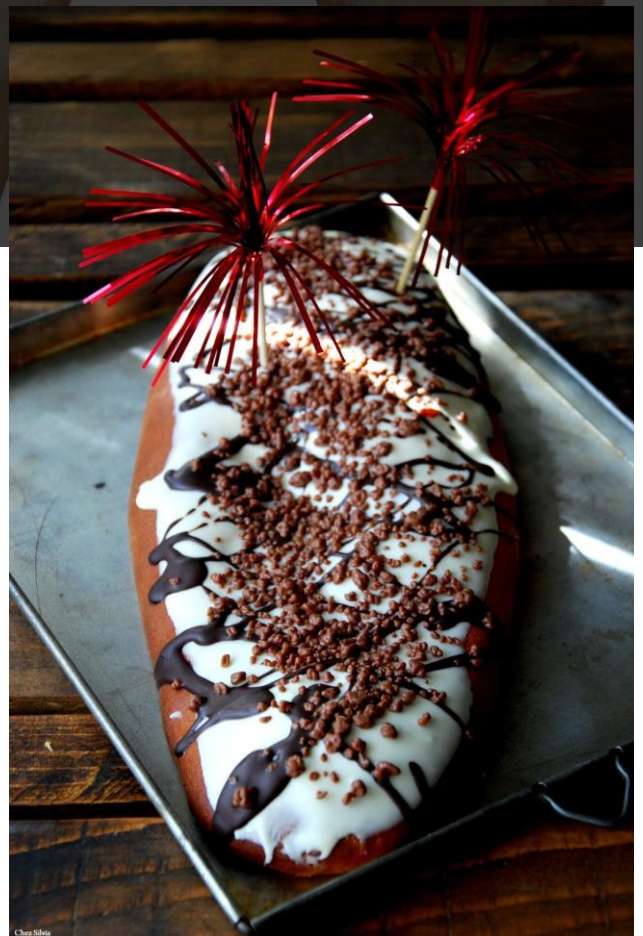
COCA DE SANT JOAN

A MIDSUMMER RECIPE FROM CATALONIA

BY LAURA ALDOMA

MIDSUMMER TO SAINT JOHN'S EVE IS A VERY MAGICAL PERIOD IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, WE CELEBRATE THE LONGEST DAY AND THE SHORTEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR, THE HEAT OF THE SUN AND THE RIPENING OF THE SUMMER FRUITS. ON THESE DAYS OF WARMTH AND LIGHT, THE VEIL BETWEEN THE WORLDS FADES AND MAGIC IMPREGNATES THE AIR. THE AIR WE ALL BREATHE.

On these dates spirit communion and communication are easier to achieve and rituals by sacred places are common. We purify ourselves jumping over fire, burn our wishes written in paper in the bonfires, we wash ourselves beautiful, healthy or young with morning dew and some even collect ashes from the burnt fir trees for protection spells. These are just a few examples of Midsummer traditions I grew up with and that we share with other nations across the Northern Hemisphere.



Midsummer/Nit de Sant Joan/Nit de les bruixes (St John's Eve or Witches' Night) is huge in Catalonia and these dates are very often a key element in Catalan mythology. It's the time when fairy queens kidnap their lovers, when girls become fairies and when witches cast powerful spells to name a few. I could probably write a book or two on the Catalan Midsummer but I thought I would share something you can make, personalise and enjoy at home. We love food and we love this brioxish Midsummer cake which is traditional, delicious and travels pretty well wherever you want to eat/offer it.

Let the baking commence!

Ingredients you will need:

Ingredients for the dough	Ingredients for the cream	Toppings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 300g white bread flour• 2 eggs• 45g sugar• 30g butter• 7g salt• 60g water• 2 tsps vanilla extract• ½ tsps cinnamon• 1 tsps lemon zest• 50g yeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500ml milk• 40g corn starch• 100g sugar• ½ tsps lemon zest or the skin of 1 lemon• 1 cinnamon stick• 1 vanilla pod or 2 tsps vanilla extract• 3 egg yolks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sugar• pine nuts or slices almonds or hazelnuts• fruit• 1 beaten egg (to brush)

Part 1- the dough

- We'll mix the flour, the eggs, sugar, salt, lemon zest, vanilla, cinnamon, yeast, water and 10g butter all together. Slowly, we'll add the rest of the butter, 10g at a time, making sure our dough is smooth and everything is well incorporated.
- We'll work the dough well. When the dough is not sticky any more, we'll take a piece and stretch it. If the dough is stretchy and it doesn't break, it's ready. We'll let it rest 30 minutes.
- We'll stretch the dough into our desired shape, usually oval or round, an inch thick more or less. We'll brush it with the beaten egg and let rest until it doubles its size. The longer the rest, the better, so we'll give it at least 3 hours.

Part 2- the cream

- We'll take 5-6 spoons of our 500ml of milk and use them to dissolve the corn starch in a cup.
- We'll heat the rest of the milk in a saucepan with the lemon peel, the vanilla and cinnamon stick.
- We'll beat the egg yolks with the sugar in a bowl.
- When the milk starts boiling, we'll turn the fire down and remove the lemon peel and cinnamon stick. Then add the milk with corn starch and the egg yolks with sugar and mix well. We'll stir it well in the saucepan at a low heat until thick and finally, we'll let it cool down covered in cling film.

Part 3- Assembling and baking

- We'll transfer the cream into a pipping bag.
- We'll brush the dough with egg again. Sun motifs are common and fitting but some people will just draw lines with the cream to ensure there's a bit of cream through the whole cake.
- Another option is dividing the dough in two and using the cream as a filling rather than a topping

and decorate with fruit or nuts on top.

- We'll finish dusting the cake with sugar and baking it at 220 Celsius for around 15 minutes or until golden.

Your cake will be your interpretation of Midsummer, of the season and of the spirit of the place where you live. For this reason, I haven't being specific with the fruit used for the toppings, while someone may choose to use fruit or not, I would always advice using local produce. If you have the chance to grow or pick your fruit, even better. On the pictures we can see a traditional cake with fruit and cream making a star motif by Ramon from “que hi ha de postres?” blog, who's a retired baker. The other picture is by Silvia, a modern baker, who used different chocolates to play with the the concept of the shortest night of the year. I will be posting a picture of my “coca” on my blog laura-of-sokkvabekk.tumblr.com/ in the next weeks. Happy Midsummer baking!





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A PAGAN WEDDING

BY TERRI ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

HERE IT IS THE LAST PAGAN WEDDING CEREMONY IN THE UK BEFORE LOCKDOWN!

TERRI ROSE THE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR GLASTONBURY GODDESS TEMPLE WEDDINGS LOVES THE ROMANCE AND PERSONALISATION INVOLVED IN THESE SACRED CEREMONIES. IT'S THE ONLY LEGAL PLACE IN THE UK TO CONDUCT PAGAN WEDDINGS.

The couple don't just exchange vows, the bride and groom meet the day before at the temple to make their customised anointing blends, wands, and broomsticks as well as have a blessing. There are a host of sacred rituals that are produced on the wedding day itself too, all traditions are hundreds of years old.



So what are they?

To name a few, jumping over the broom stick to lighting your candle with the flame of Avalon and drinking blessed water from the Glastonbury springs, but there are many more! The hand fasting is the main attraction where the couple, friends and family tie their bonds of love and wishes over the couples hands. The ceremony itself is beautiful. You really have to see it for yourself!



This wedding had a Viking theme, held at the goddess temple then a short 30 second walk to the George and Pilgrim Inn one of the oldest medieval hotels in Europe - famously known for its many hauntings. It was a real blast!



Looking forward to many more.

If you would like a similar wedding ceremony here are the details

Photographer - www.terrirosephotography.com

Ceremony - Www.goddessempleweddings.com

Flowers - Www.ninajane.com

Witchcraft Live



The 'Witchcraft Live' Facebook Group

CREATED BY THOTHWITCHCRAFT.COM

The 'Witchcraft Live' facebook group is a private facebook group, which is a place where you can ask questions of others and share experiences. We are always adding live videos to the basic magical curriculum video archive, which you can find in the 'Units' tab.

We welcome the inexperienced to ask questions and we will do our best to answer them. Feel free to share your experiences while you discover and explore your varied paths.

If there seems to be a consensus on a topic you want to learn more about, 'Witchcraft live' will put on a virtual lecture or workshop on that subject or will offer something thought provoking.



Thoth is a company inspired by, and named after the Egyptian God "Thoth" who rules over The Moon, Magic and Writing. He is said to be "The wisest of the Egyptian gods" and is also known as Hermes, Mercury or Hermes Trismegistus.

We believe in helping others to help themselves so are big proponents of 'gatekeeping' and keeping magical knowledge completely secret.

We primarily teach, but also operate a number of businesses including:

- thothwitchcraft.com
- Great Travelling Psychic & Holistic Fair
- 'Witchcraft Live' FB Group
- Bristol Esoteric Festival
- Thoth TV (Youtube)
- 'No Holds Barred Witchcraft' Podcast

thothwitchcraft.com

THE ART OF JULIE DHEMIAH MEACHAM

WWW.DHEMIAH.COM



My name is Julie Dhemiah Meacham, I am an Energy Artist based in the West Midlands. I provide a wide range of art prints in watercolour and acrylic's as well as specialising in channelled art. I have been painting and drawing since childhood, always wanting to capture the other worldly magick I could see, sense and feel around me.

As an artist I have tried to convey to my audience to look deep into the world the way i see it, if my audience can see, feel and touch the unfolding realities and realise that there are many other energies and other worlds around us, then my mission will be partially completed, if they can journey into my art then my mission is complete.



See Julie's Etsy shop here:
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/RaggleTaggleFaeries>







MEET THE MAKER COVEN & CO.

BY JORDAN AIRE



Who is Jordan from Coven & Co?

Since the young age of 11 Years old, I have been interested, if not fascinated by the strange and unusual side of life, the mystery behind what some consider myths. It began with (potentially watching too much Charmed) my first hand written Book of Shadows. First page consisting of a badly drawn Pentagram and underneath written "Jordan, Aged 11.5 years old" it was the beginning of 16 years of studying, practicing and improving on what that 11 year old boy thought he knew. I now consider myself a modern day witch, focusing on traditional Witchcraft.

I had visited a medium in the later part of summer in 2016, who had told me my current relationship at the time was one that wasn't to last (luckily it didn't) and also that my current work surrounding was also one that wasn't for myself permanently.



She informed me that my future work would involve crystal healing. Left with a unsure mind, parked the information from my visit to the medium well and truly in the back of my brain.

Meanwhile, struggling to focus on a career path once leaving school and attempting college, and leaving twice. I could never settle, never find joy. I found myself moving up the management ladder for some clothing retailers. Finding a understanding partner, who believed in me, my ideas, and my intentions. I was mentally struggling with what future career would hold for me? I was 26, seeing friends progressing in their life happily, finding their path and doing well at it.

Being a Aries I was stubborn, reluctant to believe this was my final path.

How did you come to Construct Coven & Co?

I have always been drawn to Crystals, their properties and even just the formation and colors of each individual stone. I prefer raw cut stones myself.

In the deep Autumn of 2019 I decided to source some crystal pendants, which have now become our core selling line and began creating an online business initially starting and relying on Facebook for transactions. After creating an online presence, I slowly moved to Etsy in April, then switched my Facebook platform to a marketing and information group, a platform in which I post about the strange and unusual and all things between, with posts about my new collection launches, giveaways and new pieces.

Gaining knowledge of what my customers want, and giving us a darker edge and beautiful pieces from trustworthy sources.

Coven & Co was born.

I guess the medium was right!



How do you choose pieces for your collection?

Gut Instinct!

Sometimes it is hard to remember to not shop for yourself! But as a witchy collective we are drawn to beautiful natural things. I don't hunt for specific stones at first, but by interesting shapes, colors and patterns. I like to find something unique. I also stock vintage pieces alongside our collection (still trying to find the perfect Black Jet piece!) I use the internet for my pieces, vintage websites and suppliers mostly.

What is in your latest Collection?

Our newest collection is slightly different from what we have stocked or handcrafted before, our "Ouija" collection is an eclectic mix of chunky double layer chains, with resin elements. It's performing well, and our customers liked the new collection amongst our core products. It gave us as a business a chance to be more creative and design something different to showcase to our customers.

Your business should reflect who you are, you will draw in like-minded shoppers, and can create life long customers and also some of which I know consider friends.



What's in the cards for Coven & Co's Future?

As well as focusing on maintain the current offering we have on our store, we aim to extend our range to a full jewelry offering, including earrings, rings, bracelets etc. We are also looking at stocking a full range of home ware, but one step at a time. Do one thing right, or many things wrong.

Hopefully in the late summer and early autumn of 2020, we aim to be at every craft fair we can attend. This would be a new venture for me as a person, and is a business.

Originally we had wanted to begin our Craft Fair ventures this summer, but because of current circumstances obviously this wasn't feasible.

We have spellbinding ideas for September onward, and can't wait to take customers old and new along with us, it would be a fantastic opportunity to see some of our customers face to face.

I believe what ever happens to us as a brand, it will only bring me happiness, and us as a business, success.



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GOOD WITCH / BAD WITCH - MORALITY IN WITCHCRAFT

BY JONATHAN ARGENTO

THERE'S A LOT OF RATHER SLOPPY IDEAS RUNNING WILD IN RELATION TO MORALITY IN WITCHCRAFT.

THE LAZIEST VERSION ASSERTS THAT THERE IS A POLARITY BETWEEN RIGHT-HAND PATH, A 'GOOD' WHITE WITCHCRAFT AND THE LEFT-HAND PATH, A 'SINISTER' BLACK WITCHCRAFT. AN IDEA ORIGINALLY POSED BY MADAME BLAVATSKY, FOUNDER OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY AND FURTHER DEVELOPED BY THE AUTHOR AND MAGICIAN DION FORTUNE. TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, THESE RATHER SIMPLISTIC DISTINCTIONS SEEM BASED UPON DUALISM, MORE COMMON WITHIN MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS LIKE CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM AND ISLAM. SO HOW DID IT GET APPLIED TO WITCHCRAFT?

In the 1970s many witches in the media presented an ongoing battle between 'good' white and 'evil' black witchcraft and of course, they were the good guys. This rather played into the hands of conservative Christianity - which views all witchcraft as inherently evil, irrespective of whether its black or white. This combined with Doreen Irvine's fantasy autobiography 'From Witchcraft to Christ' and 'Michelle Remembers' (the equally unbelievable 'recovered memory' account of childhood ritualised abuse) prompted the 'satanic panic' of the late 1980's.

In the UK the 'Doorways to Danger' project funded by the Evangelical Alliance supplied literature and videos to every secondary school warning of 'ritual abuse' and 'satanic' witchcraft. The irony here was, that as a direct result, children were abusively removed from families by child protection agencies for fear of potential abuse, based upon the dubious testimony of evangelical Christian past-life regression therapists. During this period, no evidence of ritual abuse was sustained in court, neither was anyone convicted for such a crime. It is a sad period of history that the authorities would rather forget.

Perhaps the problem lies within fledgling Wicca, which was keen to promote a moral case for witchcraft and a curious but pragmatic instruction '*an it harm none – do what thou wilt*'. A vague enough statement, that has been variously (or perhaps hilariously) interpreted by some stateside witches last year - as never ever harming and certainly never cursing the Trump administration. I'm assuming these 'witches' have never read Aradia?

The very notion of 'non-harm' is an impossible goal, our very existence is harmful to something, whether we eat meat or not.



The second part of the statement with its Thelemic overtones, encourages a personal responsibility to do what you must – so what would Crowley do? It's hardly a recommendation to pursue peace, purity and light!

Similarly, the 'Law of *threefold return*' sounds promising, but sadly some people use it as a form of 'instant karma'. If it were it true, aggressive capitalism would be as dead as Soviet Bloc communism, sadly this is not the case! Karma is a Vedic idea whose goal is escape from Samsara, the endless cycle of rebirth, to achieve enlightened Nirvana. It's an engaging idea, but it's not really witchcraft.



Is there such a thing as a good witch? Or what makes a witch good? If we pose the same question about a knife, we have to conclude that a good knife cuts as required. A 'good knife' is fit for purpose, irrespective of whether it is used to protect or harm. Clearly, a good witch - is a sharp one!

This leads neatly into a further question. Is magic good by virtue of its intention or

its outcome? Of course, this wouldn't be an issue if the two were the same. We have all meant well - only to create a bigger problem (or perhaps that's just me).

Traditionally morality has been defined by following one of three differing instructions. 1) Always do whatever God says - still sadly a dangerous view. 2) Always follow your duty to do the right thing, irrespective of the outcome. 3) Always take the action that potentially produces the best outcome for the majority.

It's not hard to find fault with each of these ideas.

Perhaps an observation of practice is the best distinction between the Left- and Right-hand paths.

Most descriptions of the Right-hand path use a structured model of officers and precepts or rules, not unlike the organisation of a church, temple, or Lodge. However, interpreted there is a sense of convention in this approach. In its more organised format Wicca would appear to fit here, I am sure some witches would be horrified at this comparison.

The real problem with rules, is they prohibit an alternate perspective, inhibit innovation and creativity, and ultimately lead to division. It certainly accounts for the ever-increasing sects within protestant Christianity and maybe within Paganism too. Perhaps a Right-hand path is just too safe?

Does a Left-hand approach offer a better alternative?

Most acknowledge this path favours personal autonomy and breaks with convention, so far so good, but also deliberately breaks taboos in magical working. For many conservative witches, sex magic, particularly same-sex workings are a bridge too far. Are taboos, like rules, made to be broken? Is there a specific magical value in this

process? Assuming non-abusive consensual adult agreement - who is to judge. As most magic is results- based, if it works, use it!

Perhaps the real value of Left and Right-hand paths is that they are simply two sides of the same person, different approaches to the same goal. Even the most eclectic pagan camp requires some rules. What individuals or magical groups do in their own ritual space is their own business.

If there is a morality in witchcraft it is better served by taking full responsibility for your actions and *'only ever working magic, you are prepared to have worked on you'*.



I have long given up on taking seriously those who claim to be white witches, only working exclusively for good. There is simply no historical precedent for this view. Witches cure and curse, harm and heal.

Jonathan Argento is an Animist Activist Witch based on the South Coast of England, a former teacher of Religion and Philosophy, founder of Lyceum Witchcraft and co-founder of Pagan Pride South.

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HEAT OF THE HUNT

BY HELEN BRUCE

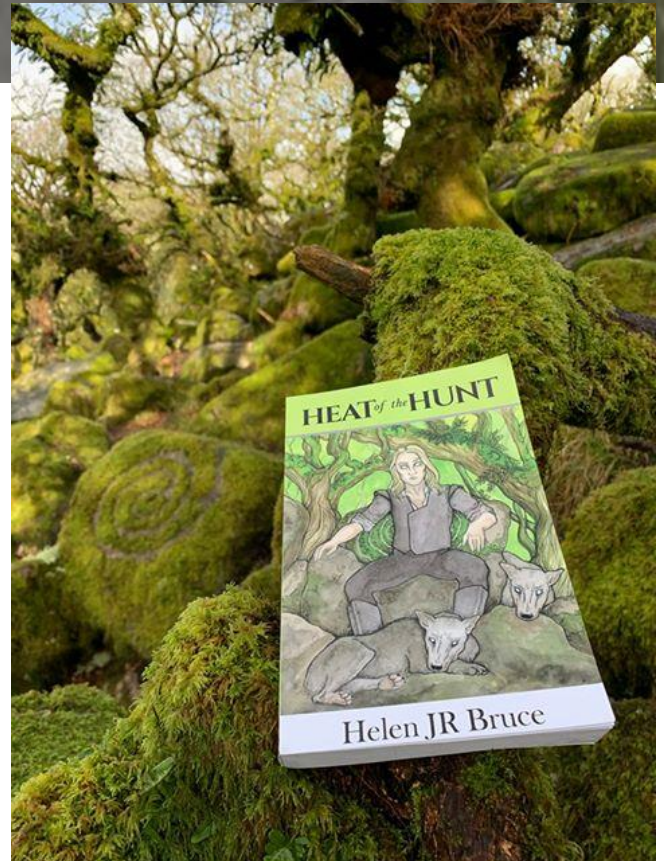
MY FIRST EXPERIENCE OF THE WILD HUNT WAS IN THE VISITOR CENTRE IN PRINCETOWN, DARTMOOR. THEY HAD A DISPLAY WHICH INCLUDED LOCAL MYTHS AND LEGENDS, AND THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WILD HUNT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A RATHER OLD PICTURE OF A MAN IN TRADITIONAL HUNTING ATTIRE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE DRESSED AS HOUNDS. IT WAS FROM A LOCAL AMATEUR THEATRE PRODUCTION, AND IT WAS STRANGELY FASCINATING.

From that day I embarked on what became a ten year quest to research and understand the phenomenon that is the Wild Hunt. I sifted through stories which had been tainted by Christianity and depicted the master of the Wild Hunt as the Devil. Slowly, a more ancient and important archetype began to emerge, and I encountered the master of the Wild Hunt as Odin, Arawn and Gwyn ap Nudd. In these original tales he is a psychopomp who guides souls to the Otherworld, heralding the 'dead' time of winter that allows life to be renewed.

I was inspired to begin writing 'Heat of the Hunt'. Aside from a healthy dose of folklore, it's a story about friendship, and the depths of fear we will face in order to protect our friends. It's also about duty, and the choice between what we are told is right and what we feel in our hearts. Then there are the thorny subjects of love and destiny, and the decision between fighting them, or giving in, at the risk of losing ourselves. Of course, it is also about murderous faeries, the terrifying Wild Hunt, a bankrupt necromancer, one undead pilot, an alcoholic storyteller, a blind psychic and a wyitch who just won't take no for an answer.

Gemma follows her best friend, Adrian, to Dartmoor, fully expecting another long weekend of ghost hunting, cheesy seances and cringeworthy spellwork. She puts up, mostly patiently, with his obsession with all things supernatural, and his claim to have had a 'visionary dream' is nothing out of the ordinary.

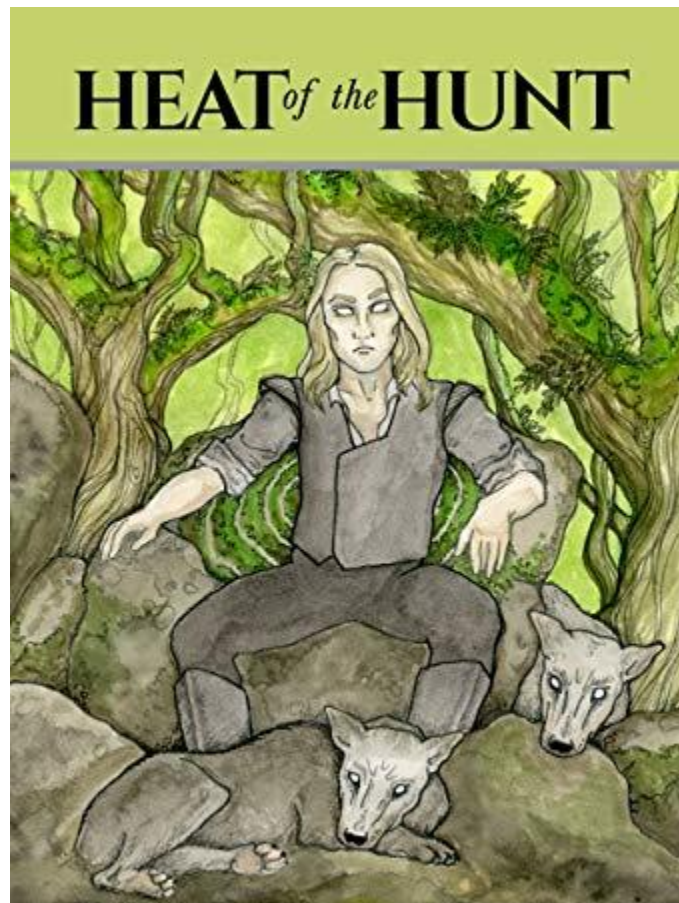
But things quickly begin to escalate. Despite a warning from the psychic Elaine, Adrian pursues his fixation that they will find a guide on Dartmoor. The local storyteller, Mike, seems to fit the bill, and he shares dark tales of the moor over a pint of beer... or six. The next day they set out to visit Hound Tor, and spot a strange hollow out on the moor, which Adrian is sure he recognizes from his dream. A mysterious stranger instructs them to turn back, and they find themselves obediently obeying, which makes Adrian even more determined the visit the hollow. He and Gemma return later that day, only for Adrian to have a serious accident. The mysterious stranger reappears and comes to their aid, before agreeing to show them the strange hollow. They find an altar in the middle, stained with blood, but this is explained away as the work of some wild animal.



Adrian's fixation on his dream only continues to grow. He is sure that there is a spirit, trapped in an underground chamber, who needs his help. Mike takes them to visit Hunters Tor, with its ruined Iron Age fort, and Gemma is saved from a skeletal creature by the same stranger and his dog. He introduces himself as Gabriel and agrees to help with Adrian's strange quest. But there is an awkward rivalry between Gabriel and Mike, which quickly turns into a simmering distrust between Adrian and Gemma. The two best friends argue, and Adrian storms out onto the moor alone.

He does not return. Mike also disappears. There are reports of walkers going missing, and the doors of the Plume of Feathers pub fly open to admit a murderous hellhound. Gabriel is not who he seemed, and, as he reveals his true identity, Gemma is forced to face up to a long suppressed truth. Is he the same glowing figure on horseback who saved her mother's life, while Gemma was still in the womb? Is he the spectre that drove her mother mad, when her father refused to ever speak about what had happened? And is he the only person who can help Gemma save Adrian's life?

Turning her back on a lifetime of practised disbelief, Gemma heads out into the moor, with the Dark Huntsman by her side. His hounds drag themselves up from the earth, bristling and wolvern, and the steed beneath him is half flesh and half bone. She has vowed to do anything to get Adrian back. But, is she truly prepared for what Gabriel asks in return?



Helen JR Bruce

YOU CAN FOLLOW MY WRITING PROGRESS, AS I WORK ON THE
NEXT BOOK IN THE TRILOGY, OVER AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/HEATOFTHEHUNT](https://www.facebook.com/HEATOFTHEHUNT).

'HEAT OF THE HUNT' IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AS
AN EBOOK AND PAPERBACK ON AMAZON NOW.

TAROT SPREAD FOR THE LUNAR ECLIPSE

BY BEKKI JO MILNER

TAROT TALK IS TAKING A BREAK FOR THIS ISSUE. INSTEAD, PLEASE ENJOY THIS SIMPLE SPREAD FOR THE LUNAR ECLIPSE.

This month is a powerful full moon in Sagittarius, along with a Lunar Eclipse. Astrologically there are a number of planetary retrogrades and eclipses coming our way, and we continue the shadow work of last month's Scorpio moon. Here is a simple three card spread for the eclipse power and shadow associated with it.

For question 1, the shadow self that is surfacing may not be a bad thing, it could be something you need, or that those around you need, that you are unwilling to address or accept or may feel uneasy about.



1. WHAT SHADOW PARTS OF MYSELF ARE SURFACING
2. WHAT PARTS OF MYSELF DO I NEED TO WORK ON
3. WHAT DOES THIS LUNAR ECLIPSE BRING TO MY LIFE

Five Minute Fiction &
Poetry

Grab a cup of tea and pull up
a chair.



THE NEW STAR

A PARTIAL SESTINA

BRIAN CORMACK CARR (APRIL 2020)

The crossroads reach'd by paths of ice,
We canter cold, and halt the night.
Away, sweet horse - my thanks for life.
In fast-chalk'd star, I shield from death.
He chased us down 'cross fields, with fire;
Now I wait 'neath the night's chill Moon.

I incant pleas towards the Moon,
And draw her down through tears of ice.
My cheeks flush hot; these lines of fire,
Burn scars of guilt in deep of night.
His angry chase was our babe's death.
Can I rejoin with that lost life?

She's near as breath. I give my life.
Sky-bound, I leave this flesh. Sweet Moon!
In your sky, I escape from death,
No more a sad and childless ice.
Once-hollow gut, engulf'd by night,
Finds peace in deeper dark. I'm fire.

He canters cold and halts the night,
At crossroads reach'd by paths of ice.
His rage sparks up with kindling fire;
But finds me not, beside the Moon.
I twinkle promises of life.
Enduring, I await his death.

So, sleep this night - dream alone, of ice
And cry "death!" to the thankless Moon.
I, new Star, am on fire at last ... with
LIFE!

THE TONGUE-TIED

BY SCARLETT WARD BENNETT

You had to unlearn the gravel-pit dig
and mud-stomp of your father's blood
to discover how to tread lightly enough
not to break the quiet.

I'm sorry I couldn't unfathom my fingerprints
enough to entirely reinvent touching
as much as I would have liked
the first time I held you,
but perhaps if I do it gently enough
there won't be too much of yesterday
dirtying the gauze shuttering your skin.

I apply pressure the same way
a wind scatters sand;
quietly and without moving anything,
but disturbing everything.

The sea smells of all its independent parts,
but we know it intimately enough to call it sea air.

When you speak you use all the vocabulary
the scattered shoreline taught you
recalling a time it was a bluish bottle,
and someone blew on the lip to create song.

THE MAGICAL GIN GLASS

A STORY BY CLAIRE VALENTINE-GIBSON

She finally slipped away at the ripe old age of 92. Gladys, the old village crone was a force to be reckoned with. She was well known in the town of Stone in Staffordshire. During her years as the town wise woman, she had been heavily involved with lots of local groups. Though she was not blessed with children, she certainly did spend lots of time helping the local Brownies to plant sunflowers on Abbey street and she was even known to support the Beavers at Kibblestone Scout camp. She always was a bit 'outdoorsy' so her mother used to say.

During her 60's, she lived on a narrowboat called "Bluebell" and it was painted a deep purple and heavily adorned with her own artwork of various flowers and herbs. She was certainly into her plants and their medicinal characteristics.

She loved to make her own gin. She would spend one day per week at Ten Green Bottles and would sample a new gin to get inspiration. She had her favourite gin glass. It was bought for her as a birthday present and she would use it every day.

When she died, the gin glass, and much of her good quality crockery, was taken to the Cats in Need charity shop at the end of the high street. That's is where it magical journey continued.

A local artist "Claire the Witch Crafter" was out for one of her charity shopping sprees where she goes to harvest materials. Claire uses up cycled and recycled materials in her art and crafts. She spotted the gin glass and took it home.

With a steady hand, Claire began to decorate the glass with Ivy and a Goddess symbol. Being the Artist with the Magical Paintbrush, Claire transformed the glass into a wonderful gift.



A few hours later and the glass was fired and cooled and ready to be placed on her Etsy site.

No sooner than the glass was listed, it was bought by a lady who wanted it sent to her friend as a surprise to cheer her up during the lockdown. Claire was overwhelmed by the response she got when that friend received the glass. It hardly had time to be taken out of the box before it was filled with gin after another long shift in hospital.

Claire then continued with her mission and sent the profits from selling the glass, to the Owl Rescue Sanctuary in Haughton, Staffordshire. They suffered badly in the floods before Christmas and then again with the early storms. Just as they were getting back on their feet, the Covid-19 lockdown stopped them being open to the public and also being able to take the birds out to shows where they would do a lot of fundraising.

Claire is very drawn to Barn Owls and she decided that she had her artistic talent that could be used to generate some money to help out.

"I make sculptures, paintings, mug coasters...anything you like really, adorned with Owls and as long as I have covered the postage, every bit of money left goes to the birds. I make my art out of a love and the sheer pleasure it gives me to create something. To then sell it and be able to help the birds is even better!"

You can see what Claire makes by going to her Facebook page @witchcrafterart or you can go to her website <https://www.witchcrafterart.co.uk> . She is happy to take commissions for any Owl gift you might like. It would be a great way to treat someone also in lockdown isolation to something to make them smile...and keep the magical gin glass going. Gladys will be proud of you!



'THE FOOL'

BY VRINDA PENDRED

I stand on the precipice,
the cliff's edge,
the end of the line.

Ahead: mountains,
stone knuckles
reaching skyward.

Below: a void,
a drop of unfathomable depths.

There is nowhere left to go
but backward.

I cannot go backward.

I eye that chasm once more –
stare down into the mouth of the beast,
with its promise of death,
of consumption by the demons of
the Unknown.

My heart beats
like wings –
and I fly
over the chasm
and into the arms
of whatever lies on
the other side.

PERMANENCE/IMPERMANENCE

BY KIT JORDAN

I watch the waves slide across the shore,
and know
when I am gone,
that they will slide once more.
The tide breathing in, and out.
Indifferent to my absence.

The wind will blow
in bursts,
and gusts,
and smooth long exhales,
whether or not
I am here to breathe
the same.

There are machines near the shore.
They work tirelessly.
The land beneath
is churned, dark,
littered with debris.
The birds wheel round,
observing the wreckage.

But
it matters not.
For I know,
however we scar this earth,
the sun will warm it all the same.
And in the days when we are gone
it's beauty will remain,
or emerge adapted, changed,
to blot out
all evidence of man.

I know you don't want to believe
that we're killing the planet.
I agree.

We are
only
killing
ourselves.

Grimoire

June 2020

SNAIL MAGICK

BY BEKKI JO MILNER

My garden is full of snails, and I regularly find I have an abundance of discarded shells. These marvels of the natural world are more useful in witchcraft than we may think!

Growing from the back of these tiny travellers, snail shells form a natural spiral made of minerals – mostly calcium – taken from the food they eat. It protects their vital organs, and when they die, the shell is left behind. The pretty colours on the outside eventually flake away, leaving them a ghostly white.

So how can we use them in magick, and what attributes do a snail and it's shell carry?

Snails represent the home, protection, fertility and travel. The Museum of Witchcraft has amongst it's collection a string of snail shells used as a charm.

Protection around the home

You could string some shells together and hang above a doorway, or simply tuck the empty shells in to corners or on door and window ledges. Alternatively, placed in a bowl with decorative dried flowers, or a less decorative bowl of salt near an entryway would also help to cleanse and protect.

Snail Protection Powder

Grind up some empty snail shells in to a fine powder. Mix with salt and dried protection herbs (I prefer basil). Store in an air tight jar and use by sprinkling across windows and doorways.



Snail Protection Charm

Snail shells make perfect little charms that are easy to hide away or carry with you.

For a simple protection charm you will need –

An empty snail shell

Salt

Protective herbs (basil, mugwort, clove bay etc.)

Small parchment or paper (small enough to fold up and put in your shell)

A black or white candle



Instructions

Grind up the herbs and salt and place them in to the snail shell. Draw a personal or protective sigil upon the square of paper. You can also write the name of a person if the charm is for someone else. Fold it up and tuck it inside the shell.

You can add more herbs or even essential oils at this stage, in line with your spell needs.

Taking the candle, light it, and drip the wax in to the shell until it is sealed. Because the wax drips down in to the shell, this can take some time, and you may find you use a whole spell candle to do this (not a bad thing!).

Once set, you can carry the charm in a pocket or bag, or tuck it away in a corner to forget about.

Variations on this could be using herbs, oils and sigils related to fertility, home or travel.

Do you have a favourite spell or ritual you would like to share? Email them to witchzine.submissions@gmail.com and we will feature them in future issues!





BLESSED MIDSUMMER!

WITCH magazine would like to wish all it's readers a blessed summer solstice

Thank you for your readership, contributions and support!

Art by Claire Valentine Gibson

<https://www.witchcrafterart.co.uk>

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